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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

## SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1953.

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### Councillors:

Chairman	-	Councillor V. A. Watts, J.P.
Vice-Chairman	-	Councillor W. J. Cross, J.P.
Councillor F. Edwards,		Councillor (Mrs.) A. Robinson.
	B.E.M., J.P.	„ L. James.
„ A. E. England.	„	W. G. Cole.
„ F. H. Belcher.	„	H. J. Reed.
„ H. P. Williams.	„	N. L. Williams.
„ T. Maiden.	„	T. H. Coleman,
„ A. Perkins.		B.E.M.
„ A. P. Griffiths.	„	J. Jones.
„ I. H. Williams.	„	G. Moses.
		Councillor J. Hewins.

### Officers:

Clerk and Accountant	-	-	Leon King
Medical Officer of Health	-	H. V. M. Jones	
Sanitary Inspector	-	-	L. G. Hale
Engineer and Surveyor	-	M. T. Benjamin	
Architect	-	-	G. A. Atkinson
Deputy Clerk	-	-	C. Knight
Deputy Accountant	-	-	G. Lavin



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR MRS. ROBINSON AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour of submitting the Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Administration of your Area for the year 1953.

Area of Abercarn U.D. Area ... ..	9,543 acres
Population—Registrar General's Estimate ...	18,630
Inhabited Houses ... .. 1951	5,116
... .. 1952	5,178
... .. 1953	5,232
Number of Houses owned by the Council ...	883
Rateable Value ... .. 1951	£68,283
... .. 1952	£71,092
... .. 1953	£71,236
Product of Penny Rate ... .. 1951	£245 0 0
... .. 1952	£250 5 5
... .. 1953	£260 0 0

**VITAL STATISTICS.**

**Births.**

	1951	1952	1953
Total ...	286	322	291
Males ... ..	156	144	148
Females ... ..	130	178	143
	286	322	291

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population ... 10.5

**Stillbirths.**

	1951	1952	1953
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 of the Population ... ..	0.49	0.46	0.47

**DEATHS.**

	1951	1952	1953
Females ... ..	92	62	81
Males ... ..	126	114	115
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	218	176	196
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1951	1952	1953
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population ... ..	12.5	9.3	11.58
Birth Rate per 1,000. Monmouthshire ...			16.79
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000, Monmouthshire			0.41
Birth Rate per 1,000, England & Wales			17.5
Death Rate per 1,000 Monmouthshire ...			11.58
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births, Monmouthshire ... ..			32.63
Death Rate per 1,000, England & Wales			12.5

**INFANTILE MORTALITY.****Number of Deaths under One Year:—**

	1951	1952	1953
Boys ... ..	5	9	3
Girls ... ..	6	5	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	11	14	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Infantile Mortality Rate ...	29.6	33.8	32.63

## CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES.

				0 to 1 week.	1 to 4 weeks.	4 weeks to one year.
All causes ... ..				4	1	3
Measles ... ..				—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..				—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..				—	—	—
Influenza ... ..				—	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever ... ..				—	—	—
Cancer (Malignant Disease) ... ..				—	—	—
Syphilis ... ..				—	—	—
Tuberculosis ... ..				—	—	—
Bronchitis ... ..				—	—	—
Pneumonia (All forms) ... ..				—	—	2
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..				—	—	—
Diarrhoea ... ..				—	—	—
Congenital Debility ... ..				—	1	—
Premature Births ... ..				2	—	—
Digestive Diseases ... ..				—	—	—
Violence ... ..				—	—	—
Other causes ... ..				2	—	1

## ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASES—DEATHS.

			1951	1952	1953
Bronchitis ... ..			16	16	20
Pneumonia ... ..			16	11	9
Other Forms... ..			10	7	3
			—	—	—
			42	34	32
			—	—	—

## CANCER DEATHS.

			1951	1952	1953
Males ... ..			19	19	19
Females ... ..			14	6	15
			—	—	—
			33	25	34
			—	—	—

## Infectious Diseases.

The principal Notifiable Diseases are Smallpox, Typhoid, Typhus, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Continued Fever.

There were no deaths from the principal Notifiable Diseases during 1953.

## CAUSES OF DEATH, 1953.

1952				1953	
M.	F.			M.	F.
114	62	ALL CAUSES	...	115	81
		Tuberculosis—Respiratory System	...	—	2
		Tuberculosis—Other Forms	...	—	1
		Sylphillitic Diseases	...	—	—
		Diphtheria	...	—	—
		Whooping Cough	...	—	—
		Meningococcal Infections	...	—	—
		Acute Poliomyelitis	...	—	—
		Measles	...	—	—
		Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	...	1	—
		Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	1	4
		Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	...	7	4
		Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	—	1
		Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	—	1
		Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	10	10
		Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	—	—
		Diabetes	...	—	1
		Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	16	16
		Coronary Disease, Angina	...	17	7
		Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	1	—
		Other Heart Disease	...	18	8
		Other Circulatory Disease	...	2	3
		Influenza	...	1	4
		Pneumonia	...	3	6
		Bronchitis	...	19	1
		Other Disease of Respiratory System	...	3	—
		Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	2	—
		Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	—	1
		Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	1	1

Hyper-plasia of Prostrate	...	...	...	3	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	—	1
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	7	10
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	—	—
All Other Accidents	...	...	...	2	2
Suicide	...	...	...	1	1
Homocide and Operations of War	...	...	...	—	—

### CORONER'S INQUESTS.

Nineteen inquests were held in the area during 1953. The certified causes of death were:—

Accidents	...	...	...	...	5
Misadventure	...	...	...	...	1
Natural Causes	...	...	...	...	11
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2

### ANALYSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS.

Diseases.	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 plus	Total
Scarlet Fever..	1	1	1	3	4	8	5	—	1	—	—	—	24
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	3	1	3	2	3	—	—	2	2	5	10	1	32
Measles ...	10	73	40	38	29	49	—	—	—	—	—	—	239
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	5
Whooping Cough ...	6	13	8	13	5	10	8	—	—	—	—	—	63
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Totals ...	20	88	53	56	42	67	13	2	4	5	11	5	366

It will be noted that the total number of infectious diseases reported during the year was increased by 119 for 1953. The incidence of measles was heavier by a total of 130 over the preceding year, which more than absorbed the total increase of infectious diseases.

It is gratifying to note that the number of Food Poisoning cases reported and investigated was only 7, while the total number of Tuberculosis cases decreased by 10.

### NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

		1950	1951	1952	1953
Scarlet Fever	... ..	44	15	20	24
Dysentery	... ..	90	66	5	2
Diphtheria	... ..	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	... ..	23	78	36	32
Cerebral Spinal Fever	... ..	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	... ..	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	... ..	27	32	30	20
Whooping Cough	... ..	32	106	37	63
Erysipelas	... ..	1	1	—	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		1	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	... ..	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	... ..	60	29	30	7
Paratyphoid Fever	... ..	—	—	4	—
Measles	... ..	66	526	109	239
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		244	855	274	393

### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

This service continues to be carried out by the County Council.

There were no reported cases of Diphtheria during the year, 1953. Where such cases are notified, isolation facilities exist at Bedwellty Hospital and Alteryon Isolation Hospital, Newport.



The response of Innoculation against Diphtheria continues to improve as will be seen from the figures following.

Children under 5 years of age are innoculated by Assistant Medical Officers from the County Council's Public Health Department at the District Clinics. School children by the Area M.O. at the Schools.

### Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of children at 31st December who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date, i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1937:—

	Age at date of final injection (as regards <b>A</b> ) or of reinforcing injection (as regards <b>B</b> ).							
	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	Total.
<b>A.</b> Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the Authority's area (including temporary residents) during the year 1953.	9	162	70	5	9	70	—	325
<b>B.</b> Number of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection (i.e., subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) during the six months ended 31st Dec., 1953.	—	—	—	—	9	433	—	442

### Vaccination—Smallpox.

Vaccination for the year 1953 totalled 60.

The following table is submitted for your information;—

**(1) Number of Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated)  
during the period.**

Age at date of vaccination.	Under 1	1—2	2—4	5—14	15 or over	Total
Number vaccination ...	17	24	1	6	5	53
Number re-vaccination ...	—	1	—	1	5	7

**INFANT WELFARE CENTRE ATTENDANCES.**

Due to the factors mentioned below, i.e., the opening of the new Clinic at Newbridge and the closing down of the old Clinic at Crumlin, it is not possible to set out a detailed table in regard to attendances at Newbridge, Crumlin and Abercarn. However the Grand Total of Attendances is shown as follows:—

Grand Total of Attendances for the year 1953 ... 6,777

You will no doubt recall that during the year, the new modern Clinic was opened at Newbridge. The Crumlin Clinic was accordingly closed in order to concentrate the staff at Newbridge.

It is not without pride that I congratulate this Authority in obtaining so fine a Clinic in its Urban Area, especially when it is noted that very many large towns are still without such amenities.

As can be seen from the figures submitted, almost every mother in the Urban Area visits the Clinic during the first twelve months of the life of the child, obtaining guidance and instruction in the welfare of her child.

## SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

					Non-				
			Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Total.		
			M.	F.	M.	F.			
Total Cases on Register									
31-12-52	...	...	86	87	...	11	24	...	208
New Cases, 1953	...	...	6	11	...	1	1	...	19
Deaths	...	...	—	2	...	—	1	...	3
Recovered	...	...	3	7	...	—	—	...	10
Removed from District			1	4	...	1	—	...	6
			—	—		—	—		—
			88	85	...	11	24	...	208
			—	—		—	—		—

Number of entries into various Sanitorias during the year totalled 22. Additionally, after hospitalisation 25 cases were discharged during the year.

The number of entries into Sanitorias more than exceeded the number of new cases during the year.

Periodic visits are paid, from time to time, to each village in the Urban Area by the Mobile X-Ray Unit resulting in several cases of Tuberculosis being detected. The detection of such cases would be impossible without the help of the Mobile X-Ray Unit especially as the patients showed no clinical symptoms. The detection of such early cases of Tuberculosis is particularly gratifying when treatment can be almost immediately given and a speedy cure effected.

In the new cases, as enumerated above, all the homes of the patients were visited and details compiled, appropriate forms were sent to the Chest Clinic and also to the County Medical Officer, copies of all enquiries are kept for record purposes. Disinfection of the homes were carried out, all family contacts were advised to visit the Chest Clinic for medical examination. In this way two secondary cases of Tuberculosis were brought to light.

The question is often put as to whether the number of Tuberculosis notifications are increasing and the numbers in general rising. The Authority will be aware that there are very many cases of Tuberculosis included in the above men-

tioned table which has been on the Register for 20 years or more. It seems to me that these persons would be well advised to visit the Chest Clinics for a final check up in order to ascertain their fitness. If the tests carried out on these persons are found to be negative, I see no reason why they should not be removed from the Register.

**Annual Return of Food Poisoning Out-Breaks in the Area of the Abercarn Urban District Council for the year January 1st, 1953, to December 31st, 1953.**

In accordance with Circular 46/49 (Wales) dated 24th May, 1949, Returns as per Memo 188/MED (Appendix 1) are submitted herewith.

**Annual Return of Food Poisoning Notifications (corrected).**

Local Authority Abercarn Urban District Council year January 1st, 1953, to December 31st, 1953.

**(2nd) Food Poisoning Notification corrected Return to R.G.**

1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total
Nil	5	Nil	1	6

**(3rd) Outbreaks due to identified Agents.**

Total Outbreak ... 4.      Total Cases ... 4.

**(3rd A). Outbreaks due to Salmonella Organisms ... 4.**

**(4th). Outbreaks of undiscovered cause.**

Total Outbreaks ... 2.      Total Cases ... 2.

**(5th) Outbreaks—Single Cases ... 2.**

Agent Identified	...	...	4
Unknown Cases	...	...	2

**FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.  
SUMMARY OF DETAILS.**

- (1) FOOD CAUSING OUTBREAKS. In three of the four confirmed cases the cause was tinned meat. Inquiries at the time showed that some of the tins were slightly blown and known

in the Trade as "springers." The affected tins were condemned.

Single members were only affected by reason of the fact that they, only, ate portions of the tinned meat. In the other remaining confirmed case the affected person ate stuffed veal which was purchased outside the Area. The affected person had a larger portion of this meat than the remaining members of the family.

- (2) AGENT CAUSING OUTBREAKS . In the four Bacteriologically confirmed cases the Salmonella Typhi-Murium was isolated. In the two remaining cases there was no Bacteriological confirmation.
- (3) CLINICAL FEATURES. Average internal ingestion to onset 24 hours to 48 hours.
- (4) MAIN SYMPTOMS. Acute abdominal pains. Diarrhoea. vomiting only in one case.
- (5) SEVERITY OF ILLNESS. Variable. Some more severe than others with high temperature and prostration.
- (6) DURATION OF ILLNESS. Three to ten days with the exception of one case when the period was fourteen days.
- (7) FOOD SAMPLES. Various samples of tinned meat, milk, ice-cream, cream and water were submitted for Bacteriological examination.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE.

*Medical Officer of Health :*

Dr. H. V. M. JONES, M.B. (Lon.), D.P.H. (Liv.).

*Sanitary Inspector :* LLOYD G. HALE, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services are maintained by the County Council at Abercarn, Newbridge and Crumlin.

### Isolation Hospitals.

There are no Isolation Hospitals in the Council's Area, but arrangements have been made for Infectious Diseases cases to be admitted to the Bedwellty Isolation Hospital, Aberbargoed, and Allt-yr-yn Hospital, Newport.

Six cases from this area were admitted to the Isolation Hospitals during 1953.

### **Immunisation again Diphtheria.**

As from the 1st July, 1948, it is now the duty of the County Council to administer this service.

### **Ambulance Service.**

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council now administers the Ambulance Service.

### **Bacteriological Examination of Pathological Specimens.**

Samples of Milk, Ice-Cream and Water are submitted regularly to the Laboratory at the County Hall for examination, and where necessary foodstuffs are also submitted.

### **Water Supplies.**

The Council is a constituent Authority of the Abertillery and District Water Board. The chief supply is obtained from Grwyne-Fawr Reservoir situated in the Breconshire Mountains. Subsidiary supplies are obtained from local sources. The water is of good quality and except for periods of drought, the supply is adequate.

However, with the coming into being shortly of the Llanover Scheme it is anticipated that the water supply available to the district will be sufficient to meet all immediate needs.

The water is sampled by the Board, and the Local Authority submit samples for Bacteriological Examination to be made. Where found necessary the supplies are chlorinated by the Board's official.

Number of houses with a piped supply	...	5,142
Number of houses supplied from wells and spring		90
Approximate population supplied from public		
water mains direct to houses	...	18,527



During the year inspections were made of water supplies and systems generally. It was observed that in many cases pressure was poor and the supplies inadequate for domestic purposes. Many systems had become corroded to such an extent as to be next to useless. In such cases informal notices and, where necessary, Statutory Notices under Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as amended by Section 30 of the Water Act, 1945, were served with complete success.

### **Sewers and Drains.**

The Council is a constituent Member of the Western Valley Sewerage Board. The Council's subsidiary sewers are connected to the Main Trunk Sewer.

There are approximately 45 houses not connected to the sewer. These are chiefly isolated houses on the mountain tops which are too far from any of the present sewers to be connected.

### **Scavenging.**

Scavenging is carried out by direct labour. The Council has three modern vehicles and portions of the District is covered three times weekly. The remainder, chiefly the Council's new Housing Estate, is covered twice weekly.

### **Refuse Disposal.**

Regular inspections in connection with Rodent Control and Fly Breeding have been carried out, and treatments carried out where necessary. The Nantcarn Feeder Row tipping site has almost reached the limit of its availability, as a tipping site. The other sites selected for future tipping are at Pant-y-resk and Trinant.

### **Rainfall.**

Rainfall is recorded at Abercarn Cemetery.

Height above Sea Level ... 539.9 feet.

The table shows the monthly rainfall, also the day of the month when the greatest fall occurred.

Month.			Greatest fall in 24 hours		No. of days with 0.01 ins. or more.	
			Rainfall.	in inches.	Date.	
January	...	...	1.37	0.74	30th	6
February	...	...	2.84	0.62	10th	11
March	)...	...	1.85	0.40	30th	4
April	...	...	5.68	1.98	28th	12
May	...	...	3.94	0.90	14th	10
June	...	...	2.89	1.41	21st	12
July	...	...	7.30	1.49	11th	20
August	...	...	5.23	1.50	19th	10
September	...	...	7.95	1.94	21st	15
October	...	...	4.66	1.11	26th	12
November	...	...	3.92	.78	27th	13
December	...	...	1.62	.60	3rd	8
Total	...	...	49.25	13.47	27/4/53	133

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

### Housing Conditions.

During the year 1953 a further 48 Housing Units were completed. Additionally, 20 Private Houses were completed.

In the majority of the privately built bungalows, mortgages were arranged by the Local Authority. It is pleasing to note that the Authority have loaned a total of 90% of the estimated cost of these new bungalows. Re-payments being made to the Local Authority over a period not exceeding 30 years.

Additionally, the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, has been operated whereby mortgagees can borrow up to a total of 90% of the cost of the house or 90% of the Surveyor's valuation whichever is the lesser.

The New Housing Estate at the Pant, Newbridge, is developing and indications at the end of the year show that several hundred houses will be handed over during the year 1954.



## Improvement Grants.

Several applications were received, for the improvement of houses devoid of such facilities:—

- (1) An internal or accessible water closet.
- (2) Hot Water Supply.
- (3) Heating arrangements for the above supply.
- (4) Bathroom, preferably in a separate room.
- (5) Extensions or enlargements to existing kitchenettes, living rooms or bedroom accommodation, etc., as under the Housing Act, 1949.

Such applications have been approved in principle by the Ministry and the Local Authority while other applications are awaiting a final approval at the Ministry.

## Demolitions.

A preliminary survey of the Area shows that 150 to 200 houses will need to be demolished.

By far the larger proportion of this number are individual demolitions while the remainder may conceivably be dealt with as small clearance areas.

## Housing.

Number of Dwelling Houses inspected	...	230
Re-inspected	... ..	415
Number of premises at which repairs and improvements have been carried out	...	265
Warning Notices served	... ..	296
Remedied without Notice	... ..	195
Statutory Notices served	... ..	35
Statutory Notices complied with	... ..	35
Statutory Notices not complied with	...	—
Number of Houses in the Area	... ..	5,232
Number of Houses owned by the Council...		883
Number of Dwelling Houses erected during the year by the Council. Traditional	...	32
Number of new houses erected privately in the year 1953	... ..	20

## Drainage.

Drainage stoppages dealt with	...	...	183
New Drainage connections, improvements and repairs	...	...	44
Disinfections carried out	...	...	12
Disinfestations carried out	...	...	4

The following statement is in the form prescribed by the Ministry:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected during the year for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	230
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		415
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	—
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	—
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	8
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in respects reasonably fit for habitation	...	8
2.	Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices	...	195
	Number of dwelling houses rendered fit for occupation in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	195
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—		
(a)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repair		35

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice:	
a. By owners ... ..	35
b. By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—
Number of houses under Circular 2845 ... ..	11
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	35
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice:	
a. By owners ... ..	35
b. By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	8
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	2
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of separate tenants or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	—
4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding:—	
(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	106
2. Number of families dwelling therein ...	213
3. Number of persons dwelling therein ...	615
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	3

(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	48
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases			110
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding			3

## INSPECTION OF MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

### Milk and Dairies.

The most important change in the Regulations is that the Local Authority is no longer concerned with the production of Milk on the farm, since this function has now been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Certain registrations and licensing duties remain with the Local Authority in addition to the supervision of distributors and dairy premises, and the taking of samples for bacteriological and biological examination.

Sampling is also out under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme and the Food and Drugs Inspector of the County takes samples for chemical analysis.

Number of Registered Distributors	...	42
Number of Premises Registered as Dairies	...	36
Number of Dealers licensed to use the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	...	1
Number of Dealers licensed to use the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	...	42
Number of Dealers licensed to use the Special Designation "Sterilised"	...	3
Number of Supplementary Licences granted		4

During the year, 80 samples of milk were taken from School canteens, N.C.B. canteens, vendors and cafes on more than one occasion. As the source of milk came from only three firms, the consistent sampling showed that out of the eighty samples taken eight failed to pass the Methylene Blue Reduction Test; these failures were attributable to undue exposure to the hot weather.

In no case did samples fail the Phosphatase Test.

In no instance when samples were taken for the detection of Tubercular Bacilli were samples found to be positive.

### **Proceeding under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

During the year it was necessary to take proceedings in three instances, under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

In the first instance, the bottle of milk contained a dead mouse. This case was dismissed, through lack of evidence, the magistrates not being satisfied that the mouse gained access to the bottle at the Pasteurising Plant.

In the other two cases, proceedings were taken against the same firm for selling milk containing a slug and a snail. The firm were found guilty and fined £10 in each case and ordered to pay 10 guineas cost.

### **Ice Cream.**

Since the passing of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment Regulations) all Vendors are now supplied by pre-packed Ice Cream and are registered accordingly under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Samples were submitted for both chemical and bacteriological examination, and in no instance was it necessary to take proceedings.

### **Meat and Other Foods.**

A large quantity of tinned and other foods were inspected during the year. The following articles were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:—

50 tins Stewed Steak	4 tins Syrup.
233 tins Tomatoes	1 bottle Squash.
171 lbs. Jellied Veal.	68 lbs. Sausage.
155 tins Beans.	28 tins Oranges.
97 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Boneless Ham.	47 tins Various Meat.
49 boxes Cheeses	360 Eggs.
35 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Veal.	13 lbs. Corned Beef.
37 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Cheese.	5 tins Salmon.
5 tins Crushed Pineapple	5 tins Tongue.
40 lbs. Sugar.	1 tin Chopped Ham.

50 tins Luncheon Meat.	6 tins Irish Stew.
6 tins Minced Beef.	2 jars Marmalade
34 tins Milk.	1 tin Carrots.
3 tins Strawberries.	2 jars Pickles
9 tins Pears.	1 tin Cherries.
134½ lbs. Cooked Ham.	7 tins Damsons.
6 tins Tinned Apricots.	1 tin Raspberry Jam.
2 tins Pork.	3 tins Beetroot
1 tin Ham Veal.	1 tin Blackcurrants.
50 tins Garden Peas.	8 tins Fruit Salad.
14 tins Peaches.	12 boxes Coconut Ice.
1 tin Beef Broth.	19 boxes Orange Segments
13 tins Tomato Soup.	29¼ lbs. Bacon.
49 tins Plums.	7 lbs. Beef Brisket.
3 jars Bilberry.	6 lbs. Tongue.
6 tins Cream.	1 packet Rice Toasties.
2 packets Cornflower.	1 tin Pilchards.
1 Sheep (killed on Road).	
3 Sheep (killed on Railway).	

### **Bakehouses.**

These premises are regularly inspected in regard to cleanliness and compilation of the Council Bye-Laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The standard of the premises existing in the Area is of very high order.

The extensive modernisation of one of these establishments is now complete and is in full production.

These premises, with the exception of the above mentioned businesses, are rapidly falling into a state of disuse through shortage of trained staff and almost invariably the bakers in the Area buy supplies outside the Area.

### **Fish Fryers.**

Regular visits and inspections were made of the nine Registered Premises and in two instances it was necessary to bring to the notice of the owners that the preparation facilities were not of the standard required.

During the year these improvements were made.



The following is the number of animals slaughtered and the amount of meat and offal condemned:—

**Carcases Inspected and Condemned.**

	Cattle excluding Cows.			Sheep and Lambs.		Pigs.
	Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Lambs.		
Number Slaughtered ...	2,311	662	1,800	20,084		2,991
Number Inspected ...	2,311	662	1,800	20,084		2,991
All diseases except Tuberculosis ...	12.7 per cent	42.3 per cent	1.1 per cent	5.9 per cent		1.4 per cent
Whole Carcases condemned ...	Nil	1	5	53		2
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	293	279	14	1,126		39
Percentage of number affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	6.9 per cent	15.3 per cent	0 per cent	0 per cent		4.2 per cent
Tuberculosis only ...	5	4	Nil	Nil		1
Whole Carcases con- demned ...	5	4	Nil	Nil		1
Carcases of which some part or organ is con- demned for Tuber- culosis ...	154	97	Nil	Nil		126

**Licensed Slaughtermen.**

Several applications were received and granted by the Council during the year.

**Government Controlled Abattoir, Brynmawr.**

The Abattoir, continues to engage a full-time Meat Inspector and from time to time, visits were made for the purpose of carrying out meat inspection. When the resident Meat Inspector was on holidays this was necessary.

**Annual Report as submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.**

Additionally the Rodent Operator carried out the under-mentioned Inspection Table, which is set out for your information. This is the new amended Report for the fifteen months ending 31st March, 1954.

	Type of Property.				Total
	Local Author- ity	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District ...	8	5,106	65	1,172	6,351
2. Number of properties inspected by Local Authority during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1954, as a result of (a) notification; (b) survey under Prevention of Damage Act, 1949; (s) otherwise, e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose .	3	240	—	—	254
	—	—	4	15	19
	5	115	28	48	196
3. Number of properties inspected. (See Section 11) which were found to be infested by rats.	Minor	66	—	6	72
	Major	5	—	2	5
4. Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice.	—	10	—	4	14
5. Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority.	—	176	—	10	184
6. Number of notices served under Section 4					
(1) Treatment ...	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works, i.e. (Proofing) ...	—	6	—	3	9
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken, by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4.	—	—	—	—	—
8. Legal proceedings.	—	—	—	—	—
9. Number of "block" control schemes carried out.	6	2	—	—	8



## Rodent Control.

The Rodent Operative employed on this work, has attended a source on Rat and Mice Destruction.

The Canal and River Banks, Refuse Tips, Pigs' Cots, etc., are baited regularly, and private and business premises are also dealt with, the latter being chargeable. Two sewer treatments were carried out in February/March and September/October. The following are the figures:—

	No. of manholes		Bait taken Poison		Total
	treated	Prebait	small	good	
February/March	705	146	60	34	240
September/October	686	68	41	22	124

## Factories and Workshops.

The two factories situated on the Old Cwmcarn Park Site are now in full operation, where more than 600 people are employed in both factories.

Number of Factories	...	...	...	8
Number of Workshops	...	...	...	22
				—
				30
				—

## Number of Defects.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Inspector	
			Referred to H.M.	No. of Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness	... 4	4	—	—
Want of Ventilation	... —	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	... —	—	—	—

## Sanitary Accommodation:

Insufficient	... ..	2	2	—	1
Unsuitable or Defective	... ..	2	2	—	—
Not separate for the sexes	—	—	—	—	—
		8	8	—	1

During the year, it was necessary to serve Notice under Section 7 of the Factories Act, 1937, and proceedings were instituted in both instances for non-compliance with Statutory Notices.

### **Schools.**

Periodic visits are paid to the schools and particular attention is paid to the sanitary accommodation and canteens, including the kitchens and dining halls. The standard of cleanliness is generally good, but the facilities in most instances are not altogether satisfactory, e.g., classrooms being used as dining halls, outside buildings having to be adapted and used temporarily. Undoubtedly this unsatisfactory state of affairs will be remedied as soon as possible.

### **Shops Act.**

The Sanitary Inspector is also the Shops' Inspector and responsible for the Administration of the Shops Act. Every effort is made to see that the hours of closing, the regulations with regard to the health and comfort of the workers and the employment of young persons are observed. In very few cases only the closing hours in respect of shops, made under the Shops Act 1950, are not observed. These shops are situated in small front rooms, the owners occupying the premises behind. It is particularly difficult to insist upon the provisions of the above Act in respect to the closing hours, in as much as a large number of these shops sell perishable goods, ice-cream and lemonade. During the year it was necessary to serve Notice under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, on several owners when the matters, as items in the Reports, were immediately dealt with.

### **Swimming Pool.**

The Council's open-air Swimming Pool is well patronised during favourable weather. Water samples are taken periodically during the season, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, for bacteriological and Free Chlorine examination. All samples submitted to the bacteriologist were found to be satisfactory.

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Medical Officer of Health.

LLOYD G. HALE, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,  
Sanitary Inspector.



